

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04040 050954Z

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ACTION EA-10

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS US SUPPORT OF ROK

1. USG AND CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS AND AMERICAN MEDIA COMMENTARY ON KOREA CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MAJOR PLAY IN ROK PRESS, WHICH IS RUNNING DAILY ARTICLES ON RASSURANCES OF US COMMITMENT TO ROK. STORIES RECEIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE HAVE INCLUDED CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR REPORT OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND ADMIRAL GAYLER ON ROK SECURITY SITUATION AND EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN ON PRESIDENT FORD'S VIEWS ON KOREA.

2. MAJOR STORY JUNE 4 AND 5 WAS DISCUSSION OF KOREA IN SENATE DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY AND MILITARY EXPENDITURES. PRESS HAS NOTED AFFIRMATIONS OF US SUPPORT FOR ROK BY NUMBER OF SENATORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAD OPPOSED US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM. COMMENT BY SENATOR EAGLETON THAT US MILITARY PRESENCE IS APPARENTLY THE MOST IMPORTANT DETERRENT TO NORTH KOREAN ATTACK WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED, AS WERE REMARKS BY SENATOR CRANSTON, WHO "STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THE US TROOPS IN ROK BE MAINTAINED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND BE

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04040 050954Z

IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED IN CASE OF WAR THERE."

LENGHTY ARTICLES BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS AND TONGYANG ACCOUNT OF JUNE 2 WALL STREET JOURNAL COVERAGE INCLUDED RESERVATIONS EXPRESSED BY SOME SENATORS BUT STRESSED THAT "NO SENATOR WHO PARTICIPATED IN TUESDAY'S DISCUSSION ADVOCATED AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM KOREA."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ROK SECURITY HAS RECENTLY CONCENTRATED ON COMPLETION OF MOD PLAN. PRESS CONTINUES TO WELCOME REASSURANCES OF CONTINUED MILITARY PRESENCE BUT CONTENTS " WE HAVE ATTACHED SIGNIFICANCE TO EARLY ATTAINMENT OF MOD PLAN, AS MUCH AS TO CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE " (KOREA TIMES). CHUNGANG ILBO WROTE THAT FALL OF INDOCHINA LED US HOUSE TO TURN DOWN PROPOSAL FOR OVERSEAS TROOP REDUCTION AND SFRC TO WARN THAT US FORCE WITHDRAWAL FROM ROK WOULD BE HARMFUL TO US NATIONAL INTERST SHOWING CHANGES IN US VIEW TOWARD ROK. IT IS UNREASONABLE, PAPER ARGUED, FOR USG TO DELAY MOD PLAN DESPITE THESE CHANGES. EDITORIAL IN TONGA ILBO FOCUSED ON JAPAN AS SOURCE OF SUPPORT SAYING THAT JAPAN SHOULD SHARE THE BURDEN OF NORTHEAST ASIAN DEFENSE WITH US BY EXTENDING ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO ROK.
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